

(2) WISBECH
WISBECH PORT HEALTH
AUTHORITY

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1955

Section 1 - Staff

Table A

<u>Name of Officer</u>	<u>Nature of appointment</u>	<u>Date of appointment</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>	<u>Any other appointments held</u>
Harry Leslie Groom	Medical Officer of Health	1st January, 1955	M.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.	Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Wisbech
Edward Joseph Sutcliffe	Sanitary Inspector	29th January, 1920	F.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Canal Boats, Inspector of Common Lodging Houses and Inspector under the Shops Acts for Borough of Wisbech.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health:-
27 Hill Street, Wisbech - Wisbech 180.

Section II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year

Table B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number of ships REPORTED as having or having had, during voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the M.O.H.	By the S.I.	
Foreign Ports	94	19247 N.R. 32507 Cargo	Nil	94	Nil
Coastwise	157	24124 N.R. 51212 Cargo	Nil	68	Nil
Total	251	43371 N.R. 83719 Cargo	Nil	162	Nil

Section III - Character of shipping and trade during the year

Passenger Traffic (Number of passengers Inwards :- Nil
(Number of passengers Outwards:- Nil

Cargo Traffic (Principal Imports:- Petrol, Oil, Grain, Timber,
(Fruit, Barytes, Potatoes
(Principal Exports:- Grain, Bricks, Basic slagé,
Waste leather, Potatoes, Pitch

Principal Ports from which ships arrive :-

London, Grimsby, Hull, Immingham, Rotterdam, Norrkoping, Antwerp,
Sligo, Maasliis, Walkom, Boston, Mantyluoto, Kemi, Buckie, Goole.



Section IV - Inland barge traffic

Number using the district :-	}	None during the year
Tonnage :-		
Places served :-		

Section V - Water Supply

- (1) Source of supply for (a) the district :- Wisbech and District Water Board and East Elloe R.D.C. - public supplies.
- (b) shipping :- Wisbech and District Water Board.
- (2) Reports of tests for contamination : - Monthly reports are supplied by the water undertakers and show a bacteriologically pure and wholesome supply.
- (3) Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes. The hydrants and hosepipes used in the supply of water to ships are kept cleansed as far as possible and, when not in use, are stored so as to avoid contamination.
- (4) Number and sanitary condition of water boats and powers of control by the Authority.
There are no water boats.

Section VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952

- (1) List of Infected Areas (Regulation 6.)
- Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.
- The list is kept up by the Medical Officer of Health, who makes amendments thereto as notified to him by the Minister of Health. It is drawn up in a form which sets out the information supplied by the Minister. Any amendments are notified to the Customs Officer and the Pilot Master, the latter being requested to pass details thereof to the pilots.
- (2) Radio Messages
- (a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district (Regulation 13).
- This is not applicable as the port is not a radio transmitting port.
- (b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14(1)(a) and (2).
- The Authority has no facilities for receiving directly any radio message transmitted by a ship. The ship can, however, get in touch with the Medical Officer of Health through Humber Radio.
- (3) Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14(1)(b)).
- Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

A ship wishing to enter the port waits at the Bar Flat Buoy, which is at the outward limit of the pilotage area and, under normal circumstances, is boarded there by the pilot. If, on

arrival at the ship, the pilot found there was, or there was suspected to be, infectious disease on board, he would return without boarding the ship and inform the Pilot Master. The latter would, in turn, inform the Medical Officer of Health, who would go out to the ship accompanied by the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).

Situation of stations and any standing directions issued under the Regulations.

The mooring station is at the Bar Flat Buoy previously referred to, the position of which is latitude 52° 55' 18" N. longitude 00° 16' 40" E. Any ship on board which infectious disease is known or suspected to be present must remain there until permission for it to move is given by the Medical Officer of Health.

(5) Arrangements for

- (a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than small pox - see Section VII).

Cases of infectious disease would be removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Peterborough or King's Lynn.

- (b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

There are no special arrangements in this connection but if any person known or suspected to be a contact left the ship and the place to which he went was known, the authority for that place would be notified.

- (c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

Any necessary action in this connection would be carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. The ship would be disinfected, battened down and sealed off. Clothing and other articles would either be destroyed or disinfected at the Hospital at Peterborough or King's Lynn.

Section VII - Smallpox

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which small pox cases are sent from the district.

Smallpox Hospital, Ipswich.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

In the event of there being a suspected case, the Resident Medical Officer of Health, St. Helen's Hospital, Ipswich, telephone number Ipswich 77211 would be contacted. He would make all necessary arrangements for the ambulance and be responsible for ensuring that any necessary vaccination or disinfection of the ambulance crew was carried out.

3. Name(s) of smallpox consultant(s) available

Dr. G. Nisbit, Peterborough

Dr. Oliver, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich

Dr. J.H.C. Clarke, Public Health Department, Sleaford

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

In the event of laboratory diagnosis being required, reference would be made to the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Smallpox

Cases of Smallpox would normally be sent to the Long Reach Hospital, Dartford, by ambulance from the Kent County Council Ambulance Service.

Consultants are available from the Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford.

VIII. Veneral Diseases

Information concerning clinics for the above are posted on the wharves.

IX. Cases of Notifiable and Other Infectious Diseases dealt with during the year.

Nil.

X. Malaria.

There were no cases during the year.

XI. Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected for Plague

No infected or suspected vessels arrived during the year.

XII. Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

No cases of rat infestations were found during the year.

XIII. Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

No nuisances were found on any of the ships during the year.

XIV. Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations

The position is as reported in 1952, i.e., the layings between Elmley Ferry and Milton Creek and the public layings between the Port's Western boundary and Harty Ferry are prohibited for the gathering of shellfish for sale for human consumption unless relaid in fresh water for a period of fourteen days.

XV. Medical Inspection of Aliens

Faversham is not an approved Port.

XVI. Arrangements for burial on shore of persons who have died on board from infectious disease.

The arrangements are as reported in 1952, i.e., body would be removed to mortuary and then transported for burial under sanitary supervision.

J. T. Murphy

Medical Officer of Health.

4th May, 1956.

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